

The Senior Portrait STYLE GUIDE

for a stress-free experience



getting STARTED

WELCOME TO THE STYLE GUIDE

I'm so excited for your senior portrait session! I want you to know that I'm honored to be your photographer and humbled that you've trusted me with the responsibility of helping you create memories you'll look back on and cherish for a lifetime.

My goal is simple: for your session to be as fun and stress-free as possible! That's why I've created this guide just for you! The following pages will help you get the absolute most out of your photos. By the time you've read through it, you'll have all of your questions answered and feel ready and prepared for your session!

This guide is packed with my best tips, tricks and insider secrets for scheduling and styling your portrait session -- and everything in between. Your only job is to be yourself, laugh a lot, have fun and let me do the rest! I can't wait to get you in front of my camera and I'm so excited to see you soon!



XOXO,

GLORIA





SCHEDULING your session

I PHOTOGRAPH PORTRAIT SESSIONS THE WAY I LIKE TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED MYSELF:

Outdoors, in natural light, because I love images that are clean, bright, fresh and timeless. Images that look and feel like you! That's why I begin all of my sessions 2-3 hours before the scheduled sunset when the light in the sky is the softest, dreamiest and most flattering.

I can help you scheduling the best time for your session depending on the time of the year and the location of the shoot. When scheduling your date, it's important to remember that the sun sets much earlier during the colder months of the year and much later during the warmer months, so make sure to factor that in.

My weekends fill up fast and far in advance, but my weekdays are much more flexible. So if you'd like to do your session sooner rather than later, scheduling mid-week is the way to go!

Are you an early riser? We can do sunrise session! Just as the sunset, sunrise sessions also provide beautiful, natural glow to the images, and we have a higher chance to have the location just for you (especially if you're thinking of a beach session during the summer!)



PLANNING your TIME

ALLOW YOURSELF MORE TIME THAN YOU THINK YOU'LL ACTUALLY NEED

When you're planning "getting ready" time before your session (scheduling your hair, makeup, etc.) please give yourself a lot more time than you think you'll need. Make sure to account for things like traffic, getting lost and parking, so you can prevent unnecessary stress, arrive a few minutes early to your session and be ready to start on time. I'm only able to shoot when light is still in the sky, so we'll want to take advantage of every minute we have together before the sun goes down!

CHOOSING the LOCATION

THE LOCATION OF YOUR PORTRAIT SESSION IS COMPLETELY UP TO YOU!

The location of your portrait session is completely up to you! As you'll see throughout this guide, most of my clients love showcasing the natural beauty of our home state. For most of my sessions, outdoor, open-air environments are always my first choice. I love shooting in wide-open natural spaces because the light is divine, especially during golden hour. There are great options all around the state, so even if you've never seen me photograph in a specific place before, I'm always up for exploring a new spot together!

THINK OUTSIDE the BOX

WHEN IT COMES TO CHOOSING LOCATIONS, DON'T BE AFRAID TO THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX!

I encourage you to brainstorm unique places that you might have special access to that most people don't. For example, maybe you (or someone you know) have access to an amazing location that would otherwise be off-limits, like a beautiful private estate, family ranch, exclusive country club or luxury resort. You'll be surprised with what you come up with! If something seems out of reach, just remember: you never know until you ask! You can also consider Airbnb or other property rental sites. I can also help you with unique locations! The Hopkinton area is loaded with beautiful areas off the beaten path. Just ask me for my favorites!



DESTINATION locations

Your portrait session includes my travel time anywhere within 20 miles of Hope Valley, Rhode Island.

If you'd like to go somewhere else, I'm up for the adventure! If you'd like to shoot outside of the city, or in Massachusetts or Connecticut, for example, there will be a travel fee to account for the extra hours of drive time there and back, the time required beforehand for me to scout locations and the overall longer session time.

For destination sessions, I allow three hours before sunset (instead of two) so we have enough time to drive to multiple scenic spots.

NUMBER OF Outfits

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**WONDERING HOW MANY OUTFITS YOU
SHOULD PLAN? I'VE GOT YOU COVERED!**

Changing outfits during a session always takes more time than my clients expect, so in order to maximize shooting time and give you the highest number of photos possible, I recommend the number of outfits (as follows) to keep stress low and the number of photos in your final gallery high:

**FULL LENGTH SESSION (60-90 MIN):
2-3 OUTFITS**

**REGULAR SESSION (45 MIN):
1 OUTFIT**

STYLING your SESSION

IF YOU WANT YOUR PORTRAIT SESSION IMAGES TO LOOK AND FEEL A LITTLE MORE EDITORIAL, I RECOMMEND BRINGING A FEW SMALL, SIMPLE PROPS WITH YOU, LIKE FRESH FLOWERS TO HOLD OR A BLANKET TO SIT ON.

If you want to set up a picnic or incorporate another special element into your session, just let me know! Maybe you have access to some larger props that have a real "wow" factor, like a boat, classic car, vintage bicycle or hot air balloon. This is the time to dream a little bit and decide what really feels like you! Props aren't a must by any means. Some of my clients love them and go all out. Some pick one or two items to bring. Others stick with just their outfits -- and that's great, too! The most important things you need to bring to your session are your joy and laughter. I'll take care of the rest!



STYLE TIPS for HER

dress it up

HAVE YOU BEEN EYEING
A GORGEOUS DRESS OR
STUNNING OUTFIT, BUT JUST
NEVER HAD AN OCCASION FOR
IT?

The most important thing to remember is that you want your senior session to feel like you! However, there's no such thing as "too dressed up" when it comes to your senior session, so don't be afraid to have some fun! You don't have to spend a lot to feel like a million bucks. There are websites like Lulus, Venus, and Shein that sell beautiful dresses and outfits at amazing prices. But you can also shop in your own closet and find something that speaks to you and that reflects your personality. Unsure? Bring them all! I can help you choose and I always carry my pop-up tent so there's not changing in the car! :)

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make a statement

PAIRING AN ACCESSORY OR TWO
WITH YOUR OUTFIT CAN REALLY
HELP BRING SOME EXTRA DIMENSION
TO YOUR IMAGES.

Whether it's a necklace, belt, bracelet, earrings, hat, or scarf, bringing an accessory or two can bring great visual interest to your photos, so choose one or two that don't compete for attention when paired together. For example, if you go with bolder earrings, you might want to choose a more humble necklace, or maybe even no necklace at all. Fresh florals in a crown or bouquet can be a really romantic touch as well!

skip the spray tan

Although it might seem counter-intuitive, I recommend that you do not get a spray tan before your session (or even a few days prior) because it tends to photograph orange even when it's applied subtly and by a professional. Your actual skin tone will photograph most beautifully.



GO PRO: hair & makeup

PROFESSIONAL HAIR AND MAKEUP IS ON THE TOP OF MOST OF MY CLIENTS' PORTRAIT SESSION CHECKLISTS

It looks amazing on camera and removes the stress of getting ready on your own. You'll have these photos forever, so this is the time to pamper yourself! Whether it's lash extensions or blown-out hair, professional hair and makeup will give you an extra boost of confidence in front of the camera, and it always photographs like a dream.



If you're working with a makeup artist, have her apply your makeup in natural light (if possible) so that it looks fresh and not too heavy. Plus, that's the type of light we'll be shooting in, so it'll give you the best expectation of how it will translate on camera. Most of my clients feel like their makeup is "too much" at first, since it's more than they would wear on a normal day, so if you feel that way at the beginning, don't worry! Good makeup artists know how to get it just right for the camera — and my clients always love the final result.



CHOOSING COLORS

THE CAMERA LOVES SOPHISTICATED COLORS.

SPRING & SUMMER

When choosing colors for your outfits, I recommend selecting lighter, neutral tones, pastels, jewel tones and more muted shades. Bright, bold or neon colors are distracting and take the focus away from where it should be: YOU!

You can never go wrong with light neutral colors like cream, pastels, taupe, camel or light gray. The camera loves shades of soft pinks and muted blues, mixed with sophisticated light-colored neutrals. That softer, more pastel-leaning color palette fits beautifully into almost all natural outdoor environments -- and especially complements our beautiful ocean state!

If you are changing outfits, my recommendation is to include an outfit that screams sophistication! A hat, statement jewelry, cocktail dress, jumpsuit or maxi dress are always great choices.

Love jeans? You can always achieve a gorgeous look with a pair of jeans, a flowy blouse or a jacket, and high heel sandals!

FALL & WINTER

When seasons change and temperatures drop, sometimes it's just too cold for a skirt and sandals by themselves (no matter how warm your coverup/overcoat is). So I have some suggestions for late fall and winter that will still help you be fashion-forward and keep your color tones camera friendly.

First, let's talk about color palettes. Just like in warmer weather, I recommend muted hues over bold, primary colors. During fall, warm neutrals like camel, taupe, cream, champagne, and gray are still going to look great. If you'd like to incorporate color, choose sophisticated jewel-toned versions of bright primary colors. Here are some examples:
mustard over yellow, crimson or burgundy over red, camel over orange, sage or emerald over green, and powder blue or navy over blue. These jewel tones will photograph beautifully in any season.

Cold Weather tips:

Add a peacoat, tights, scarves and heeled booties to a form-fitting cocktail dress.



FASHION TIPS FOR

HIM

Solid colors will help keep the attention where it belongs, whereas pinstripes or plaid patterns tend to distract the eye, so stay away from too strong of prints, avoid logos and opt for solids instead.

Avoid heavy patterns, plaids or bright bold colors as they can cast weird shadows on the skin that cannot be edited out.

TOPS & BOTTOMS

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If choosing two outfits for your session, you can make one outfit a more fun, bold choice that reflects your personality; and another more formal outfit for the photos that you may want to print on your graduation invitations, or to share with loved ones. You can't go wrong with a dress shirt, slacks and a blazer.

COLORS

For colors, I recommend neutrals and soft. When selecting your pieces, I recommend choosing a different "weight" for the pants and top. So for example, jeans (darker) and a heather polo shirt (lighter). Or gray pants (darker) with a soft powder blue shirt (lighter). These are just recommendations: ultimately you want your photos to reflect who you are!

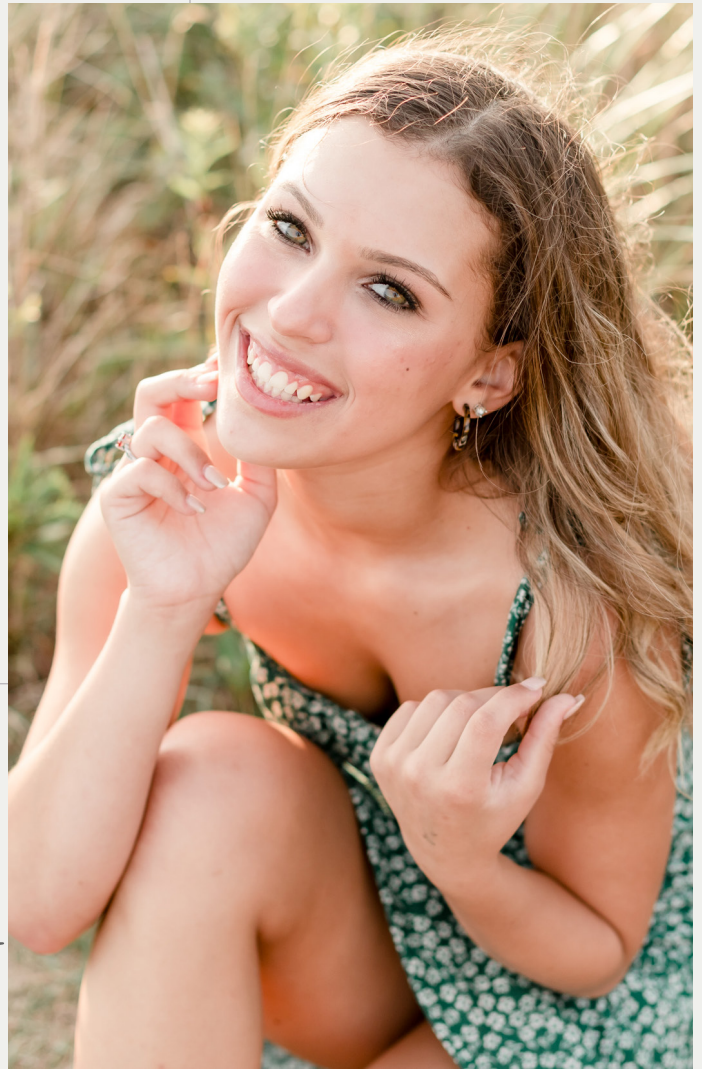
LAYERED LOOKS

The next time you walk by a store like J. Crew or Banana Republic, you'll notice the male mannequins and models are always wearing several layers at once. Layers look great on camera, so even when it's hot outside, it's worth an hour or two of discomfort for photos that will last you a lifetime.

GO TEAM!

If you want to feature your love for your team or school, bring it to your session! School jerseys and sports equipment are fun props for senior boys.

HOW TO prep FOR YOUR SESSION



KNOWING WHAT TO EXPECT BEFORE YOUR SESSION IS THE KEY TO PHOTOS YOU LOVE!

You may be a little worried about what to expect from your session, but I promise you we'll make it fun! Most teenagers aren't overly excited to take photos for an hour or more (unless it's selfies with your friends!), mostly because they don't have an expectation of what's to come. You chose me and my style of photography because you know I'd like to achieve natural, joyful, genuine portraits of the teens I photograph, and I will do the same for you. Bring your A-game, the disposition to be guided through the entire session and I know you will light up the camera! The most common thing I hear from teens before portrait sessions is this: because of a bad experience in the past, they don't like taking photos or don't feel like they'll be good at it. By the time the session is over, though, most teens can't believe how fast it went and just how much fun they had!

AFTER THE SESSION

What's the timeline like?

1 ONE DAY - SNEAK PEEK

One or two days following your session (sometimes the same day!), I'll post a sneak peek of one of my favorite photos from our time together on my Instagram stories (@gloriagreenfieldphotography) -- so keep an eye out for that! I'm so excited for you to see how beautiful you look through my eyes.

7 SEVEN DAYS - PROOF GALLERY

About a week after your session, you will receive a link to your virtual proof gallery. You will have 3 days to review your gallery with your family and decide the products or images you'd like to purchase. There's no minimum purchase required! If you want to purchase digital downloads, those will be available immediately through the client portal.

4 FOUR WEEKS - DELIVERY OF ART

Depending on your product choice, about four weeks after your session, you will receive the delivery of your products directly to your door. I use the highest quality lab for art work, albums and gift prints; so you will undoubtedly be proud to display your images around your house or gift them to friends and family.



ONE final NOTE

I know I just gave you A LOT to think about! Don't panic :) Just take it one step at a time. I provided a Portrait Session Checklist for you on the next page to help you stay organized and on top of things! But if you have any questions at any point, please know I'm here for you! . If you love two locations but can't make up your mind, no worries! I can help with that, too. If you need a recommendation of any kind, I'm on it! Remember, I'm just one email away :)

At the end of the day, though, the location you choose and the outfits you wear won't matter nearly as much as the fun we have together and the memories you make. The style choices you make will definitely enhance your photos, but the most important accessory to bring with you is joyfulness -- which is the one that makes the biggest difference in your photos anyways. You don't need to have prior experience in front of the camera. Just show up with a smile and I'll take care of the rest :)

I'm so excited! See you soon!

Gloria.

SENIOR PORTRAIT Checklist

- ☐ Email me to schedule a date, time and location
- ☐ Schedule hair and makeup appointments (totally optional!)
- ☐ Review Style Guide for outfit inspiration
- ☐ Choose your outfits (drop off at dry cleaner if needed!)
- ☐ Get your nails done (also optional)
- ☐ Pack a bag with:
 - ☐ Flats or flip-flops for walking between photo spots
 - ☐ Extra outfits (including shoes and accessories)
 - ☐ Touch-up makeup
 - ☐ Props
 - ☐ Water bottle
 - ☐ Coat or cover-up (for colder sessions)

